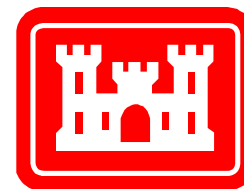

Policy Update



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Ms. Betty Lou Edwards, Editor

55TH MEETING OF THE CHIEF OF ENGINEERS ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY BOARD

In early May 1997, team members from throughout the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers assembled in the Washington, D.C., area with the Chief of Engineers Environmental Advisory Board (EAB) to examine and analyze Corps research programs designed to identify, assess, and manage non-indigenous aquatic species that interfere with the valued uses of our Nation's waters. Dr. Edwin Theriot, Aquatic Nuisance Species Coordinator at the U.S. Army Engineer Waterways Experiment Station, and a team of internationally recognized experts on aquatic nuisance species, led a variety of discussions and seminars on the treatment and management of this serious, national problem. The audience had opportunities to hear presentations by senior Administration officials, such as Mr. Gary Edwards, Assistant Director for Fisheries, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and senior Corps leaders, including Lieutenant General Joe N. Ballard, Chief of Engineers, Major General Russell L. Fuhrman, Director of Civil Works, and Dr. William E. Roper, Assistant Director for Civil Works, Directorate of Research and Development.

POLICY GUIDANCE ON INDIAN SACRED SITES

Policy Guidance Branch (CECW-AG) has prepared a draft Policy Guidance Letter (PGL) on the implementation of Executive Order 13007, "Indian Sacred Sites." The Executive Order, signed on May 24, 1996, directs Federal agencies to accommodate access to, and ceremonial use of, Indian sacred sites by Indian religious practitioners. It also directs agencies to avoid adversely affecting the physical integrity of such sites and to maintain the confidentiality of sacred site information. The Order applies to all Corps fee-owned lands and lease-held interests. The draft PGL states policy goals, suggests approaches to consultation, and outlines the means to protect sensitive information. The draft has been reviewed by the Corps Native American Policy Group and is being distributed to Corps commands with instructions to solicit Native American input.

POC: Paul Rubenstein, CECW-AG, 202-761-1257

*POC: Paul Rubenstein, CECW-AG,
202-761-1257*

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COORDINATED LINKS TO POLICY AND PLANNING GUIDANCE ON THE USACE INET

Policy (CECW-A) and Planning (CECW-P) Divisions at HQUSACE have initiated an effort to make it easier to find guidance on various topics of interest to district and division project team members. Policy and Planning Divisions' pages on the HQUSACE Information Net will be reviewed and additional links will establish convenient connections between policy and planning topics of significant mutual interest, e.g., navigation, flood control, environmental restoration and protection, cost sharing, etc. Additional guidance documents will continue to be added. The entire structures of both Policy's and Planning's web sites also are being analyzed to make access to information quicker and easier. The Universal Resource Locators (URL's) for Policy's and Planning's Homepages are, respectively:

- <http://www.usace.army.mil/inet/functions/cw/cecwa/cecwa.htm>
- <http://www.usace.army.mil/inet/functions/cw/cecwp/cecwp.htm>

Your ideas and suggestions on this matter would be appreciated. E-mail them to either Larry Prather in Policy (CECW-AG, 202-761-1250) or Harry Kitch in Planning (CECW-PC, 202-761-1969).

POC: Guy B. Ensmann, CECW-AG, 202-761-0124 or e-mail: guy.ensmann@inet.hq.usace.army.mil

THE ARMY CIVIL WORKS LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM FOR 1998 (WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 1998)

Corps Headquarters has initiated work on the development of the Army Civil Works Legislative Program for 1998. The initial steps in preparing the legislative program began in January 1997 when the Chief of the Policy Division sent a request to both the field and Headquarters requesting legislative proposals

needed to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of Civil Works programs. While the proposals were being prepared, at the request of the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works), the Director of Civil Works established a Legislative Review Team chaired by Michael Davis, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for Policy and Legislation (Civil Works); with Jim Rausch, Chief of the Legislative Initiatives Branch, Policy Division, as vice-chair. The Legislative Review Team was set up to review the proposals and select those with merit for further consideration. There were 31 proposals submitted by the field and Headquarters. After careful review of the 31 proposals, the Directorate of Civil Works recommended that 12 legislative proposals be carried forward for further consideration.

We expect to brief the Office of Management and Budget on the initial list of provisions for the Army Civil Works Legislative Program for 1998 in July 1997. After review and approval of the list by the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works), the Senior Counsel for Legislation in the Office of the Chief Counsel will prepare bill and report language for each provision and these will be transmitted to the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works) in August 1997. After coordination with Department of the Army and Department of Defense, the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works) will submit the Army Civil Works Legislative Program for 1998 to the Office of Management and Budget in September 1997. The Office of Management and Budget will review our legislative program and coordinate with other agencies in the Executive Branch, then forward the approved Army Civil Works Legislative Program for 1998 to the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works) for transmission to the Congress.

The above process describes how general legislative proposals are processed. Projects and project modifications are processed individually and must be approved at Headquarters, the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works), and the Office of Management and Budget before official transmittal to the Congress. In late fall of 1997, the Legislative Initiatives Branch will request from Planning Division the Summary of Corps Feasibility Reports and the Post-Authorization Change Reports on projects needing authorization or modification in the Water Resources Development Act of 1998. Copies of Chief's Reports and Post-Authorization Change Reports are furnished to committee staff as they are completed. The summer of 1998 is the deadline for

getting Chief's Reports and Post-Authorization Change Reports to Congress for possible authorization. Congress is under strong budgetary pressure so they may not be receptive to late projects.

At this time, it is our best guess that the Water Resources Development Act for 1998 will be authorized sometime in late summer or early fall of 1998.

POC: Milton Rider, CECW-AL, 202-761-4467

POLICY DIVISION HOMEPAGE

In the two and one-half years since debut of the Policy Division Homepage, we have endeavored to make it a useful tool, not just for Corps team members, but also for sponsors, representatives of resource agencies, and all others associated with Corps Civil Works efforts. We constantly update it and improve it to provide an easy source of policies, guidance, and other useful tools and information.

In the past few months, we have expanded the Project Cooperation Agreement (PCA) page to include a complete list of current PCA guidance, model agreements, and forms, as well as the status of actions under review. We also have provided easy links not only to policy regulations, circulars, and pamphlets, but to the entire electronic library of Corps publications. In addition, we have provided an easy breakout of policy information by Civil Works functions, such as navigation, flood control, etc.

We would like to encourage all users to provide feedback on our homepage, including questions, suggestions, praise, and, if you find it absolutely necessary (just kidding!), criticisms.

Visit the Policy Division Homepage at:
<http://www.usace.army.mil/inet/functions/cw/cecwa/cecwa.htm>

POC: Henri Langlois, CECW-AR, 703-428-6484

VICE PRESIDENT GORE'S CLIMATE CHANGE OUTREACH INITIATIVE

It is well known that Vice President Gore is very much interested in national science policy and a broad range of issues associated with climate change and the environment. These interests are implemented through a variety of mechanisms and initiatives which are coordinated by various White House offices, such as the National Performance Review (NPR), the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ), and the Office of Science Technology and Policy (OSTP). One of the Vice President's long-standing interests is climate change consequences of global warming and its potential far-reaching and long-lasting impacts across all sectors of the economy, both globally and in the United States. The international community has been dealing with quantifying the impacts of potential climate changes of the past decade through the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and AGENDA 21, which is the declaration of an international action plan that stemmed from the Rio Conference on the Environment in 1992.

In February 1997, Vice President Gore commissioned a series of "issues papers" on how climate change impacts would affect the United States. In particular, he requested that designated agencies prepare eight brief papers summarizing the state of knowledge regarding the vulnerability of selected sectors to global warming and likely climate changes:

- Health - NIH/EPA
- Fisheries, Coastal Zone - NOAA
- Agriculture, Forestry - USDA
- National Parks, Water Resources - DOI
- Disaster Mitigation and Preparedness - FEMA

The Office of the Assistance Secretary of the Army for Civil Works was invited to participate in this effort in recognition of the role of the Corps Civil Works program and their relevance to managing and mitigating the impacts of contemporary climate variability on water resources, environment, and shore protection. The Director of Civil Works was asked to support the effort, and the Institute for Water Resources (IWR) was tasked to provide the staff support. IWR had been involved in

climate change impacts analysis and research since 1978, and Dr. Eugene Stakhiv had co-chaired the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) committees on water resources. In 1997, IWR completed water resources impact analysis on ten different areas around the United States, including the Great Lakes, Boston Metropolitan Area, the Potomac River Basin, and the Columbia River Basin. The results of these studies provide the most comprehensive and up-to-date survey of water resources impacts in the United States, under a variety of climate change scenarios. The information was used in the report to Vice President Gore. It has now become apparent to most researchers and the White House that water is a key aspect of future adaptation and mitigation mechanisms. Water has become the integrating theme for U.S. national action plans that are being prepared for all sectors.

The most recent set of three transient General Circulation Models (GCM's) promoted by the IPCC were used in the Corps water resources impact studies. The overall performance of the managed water systems were examined in terms of reliability, number of failures to meet purposes, including minimum instream flows, and measures of economic gains or losses. The three GCM's do not provide consistent trends in precipitation in any of the 18 river basins of the conterminous United States. In most of the studies, two of three GCM's typically show small changes in precipitation and runoff that can readily be mitigated by existing management measures, while one GCM typically shows significantly reduced precipitation and runoff causing more frequent system failures and reduction in reliability -- both for flooding and droughts. Overall, however, when one takes into account future population growth and its impacts on water uses and demands, especially in the semi-arid Southwestern U.S., climate change caused by a doubling of CO₂ by the year 2050 is a relatively small additional stress on the water resources systems, when compared to a host of large demographic and economic changes that are anticipated in these river basins. Much more work needs to be accomplished in this field before there are more definitive answers upon which policy prescriptions could be formulated. Vice President Gore's initiative is a worthy attempt to bring these issues to the forefront and to gain more public attention as a prerequisite for developing a national action plan.

POC: Eugene Stakhiv, CEWRC-IWR-P, 703-428-6370

CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS

Hearings are a key element in the political and legislative process. They provide an opportunity for Members of Congress to be responsive to the concerns of their constituents and to gain needed information for evaluating proposed legislation, determining the need for additional legislation, or providing appropriate oversight of implementation of existing legislation. They also provide the opportunity for the Army Corps of Engineers and the Administration to present its point of view, to discuss how programs and activities are being implemented, and to respond to questions raised about specific programs, projects, or activities.

There are basically four types of Congressional hearings:

1. *Budget or Appropriations hearings are an annual occurrence, usually in the February through April time frame.* The Programs Management Division (CECW-B) in the Directorate of Civil Works has the lead for coordination and Army Corps of Engineers participation in such hearings on Civil Works programs.
2. *Authorization hearings, whether on new legislation or reauthorization, generally focus on legislation that has been introduced and is of importance to many Members of Congress.* The Army Corps of Engineers is likely to participate in hearings on legislation that directly affects Corps programs, projects, or activities, as well as other agency programs the Corps supports.
3. *Oversight/Investigation hearings deal with actions, or lack thereof, in implementing specific legislation.* Participation by the Corps is generally limited to those activities, projects, or programs for which the Corps has direct responsibility but participation can occur when the Corps provides support to the responsible agency.
4. *Information-gathering hearings can cover the full spectrum of issues/activities with which the Army Corps of Engineers may be involved.* However, the focus of a specific hearing is generally on a single topic or narrowly defined issue.

For authorization, oversight, and information-gathering hearings on Civil Works related matters, the Legislative Initiatives Branch, Policy Division, Directorate of Civil Works, has the lead for coordination and Corps of Engineers participation.

Hearings can occur in Washington, D.C., or at any place across the country. Appropriations and authorization hearings occur primarily in Washington, D.C. Oversight hearings on a specific issue or program are generally multiple hearings, so that they can be held both in Washington, D.C., and in the field. Information gathering is generally done through field hearings.

Requests for participation in hearings should be addressed to the Secretary of the Army or the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works (ASA[CW]). Designation/approval of testifying official(s) rests with ASA(CW) on Civil Works matters, particularly when the ASA(CW) is invited to testify.

Hearings are a very public forum in which the Army Corps of Engineers may be in the spotlight for either positive or negative reasons. Witnesses become the public image of the Administration, the Army, and the Corps of Engineers. Participation in hearings involves an extensive set of preparation, review, and coordination activities -- from Congress' request through the follow-up actions after a hearing. These efforts, as a minimum, require involvement and participation by Congressional staff, multiple offices in HQUSACE, OASA(CW), the Office of Management and Budget, and the witness(es). They often involve division and district staff and other Federal agencies. The preparation, review, and coordination requirements remain unchanged, regardless of time from the request for participation until the actual hearing. Therefore, the visible and public nature of hearings and their potential impact on the Corps places a high priority on the need to have the best and most knowledgeable staff involved in preparing the witness(es). The success of the testifying officer (witness) during the hearing depends on good staff work, frequently from the field offices.

During the first six months of the 105th Congress, the Army and the Corps of Engineers have provided or will provide witnesses to the annual House and Senate Appropriations hearings; hearings on disaster response

and the impacts of environmental laws on disaster response; a hearing on drawdown of the lower Columbia and Snake River dams; hearings on permit actions and revision of permit guidelines; a hearing on proposed actions of another agency that may impact the Corps; and a hearing on legislation affecting specific Corps programs.

POC: Gary Campbell, CECW-AL, 202-761-0956

INTERSTATE COMPACTS FOLLOW SHARED VISION PLANNING IN THE ACT-ACF

Two interstate compacts were voted into state law in 1997 for the Alabama, Coosa, and Tallapoosa (ACT) River Basins and the Apalachicola, Chattahoochee, and Flint (ACF) River Basins. The Public Information Office of the Georgia House of Representatives reports that many regard these compacts as "the most important pieces of legislation to ever come through the House." These are the first such compacts in the Southeast.

The compacts may provide a productive end to conflicts that flared in the 1980's because of a series of droughts, and the Corps recommendation to reallocate storage in reservoirs in both basins for Atlanta's growing water needs. Alabama sued the Corps in April 1990, alleging the Corps had not followed procedures required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in the reallocation studies. Florida joined the suit because of its interest in seeing a basinwide (rather than piecemeal) approach to water management in the ACF.

In January 1992, the three states and the Corps signed a Memorandum of Agreement to put the lawsuit aside and to resolve their differences based on a joint three-year study of the two basins. The study partners asked the Corps Institute for Water Resources (IWR) to participate by leading the municipal and industrial (M&I) water forecast study and by conducting a "shared vision" planning study. The municipal study, using IWR-MAIN, showed that M&I water use would increase only about 30 percent in the next 50 years despite a doubling of population. The shared vision study integrated all of the other technical studies to answer two questions: (1) Will

there be enough water in these basins to satisfy all needs over the next 50 years, and (2) Is there a way to manage these rivers so that those future demands will be better satisfied? The central innovation of shared vision planning, developed by IWR during the National Drought Study, is that a broad range of agency professionals and stakeholders help build and run a computer simulation of the river basin as it is projected to develop over the next 50 years. The simulation model allows stakeholders to invent their own water management plans and to ask the “what if?” questions most important to them. That, in turn, increases the accuracy and acceptance of the model.

The model estimates some economic and environmental effects and calculates the reliability of each use category (M&I, lake recreation, hydropower, etc.) for each demand scenario and management plan the user selects. By the beginning of 1996, model runs demonstrated that basin flows could be managed so that all states got more of what they wanted. State representatives began to support the idea of “equitable water allocations” at state lines -- essentially, an agreement that Florida and Alabama would always get an acceptable amount of water, without dictating how Georgia met those requirements.

The compacts set a deadline of December 1998 for an agreement. The deadline can be extended only by the unanimous approval of all state commissioners, and the compacts are terminated if the parties do not agree on an allocation formula by the deadline. Clearly, it is too early to declare success, but the shared vision planning process was instrumental not only in formulating and evaluating water management options, but in supporting the more fundamental policy and institutional development process that led to the passage of the compacts.

POC: William Werick, CEWRC-IWR-P, 703-428-9055

SECTION 211 OF WRDA 96

In general, Section 211 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1996 (WRDA 96) provides authority for non-Federal interests to be reimbursed for the construction of authorized flood control projects, or separable elements thereof, contingent upon prior approval of the plans for construction, a determination

that the project is economically justified and environmentally acceptable, and a final approval by the Secretary of the Army that the work has been performed in accordance with the approved plans. The same planning, design, and construction standards used by the Corps are to be used by the non-Federal interests. Reimbursements are considered through the normal budgetary process and are subject to appropriations. A draft Engineering Regulation (ER) and a draft model agreement are under review within HQUSACE. In the event a local sponsor expresses an interest in proceeding under Section 211 prior to the guidance being finalized, you should contact HQUSACE, ATTN: CECW-AA, for specific guidance.

POC: Jan Rasgus, CECW-AA, 202-761-0121

WRDA 96 IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE

Preparation of implementation guidance for the provisions within WRDA 96 is continuing and updates are placed periodically on the Policy Division Homepage. If you need information about a certain provision, you may contact the responsible office or POC identified in the Implementation Matrix on the Policy Division Homepage.

POC: Jan Rasgus, CECW-AA, 202-761-0121

CORPS LEADERS VISIT WITH MEMBERS OF CONGRESS

As a means of developing working relationships with appropriate Members of Congress and their staff who have an interest in Army and the Corps Civil Works program, Lieutenant General Joe N. Ballard, the Chief of Engineers, and Major General Russell L. Fuhrman, the Director of Civil Works, have relied upon the Legislative Initiatives Branch (CECW-AL) of the Policy Division to orchestrate an aggressive schedule of courtesy visits. Since January 1997, LTG Ballard has met with Congressman Shuster (Chairman) and Congressman Oberstar (Ranking Democrat) of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, as well as

Senator Baucus (Ranking Democrat), Senator Smith, Senator Moynihan, and Senator Graham of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee. Additionally, the Chief has called on Congressman Maloney, a new Member of the National Security Committee. Other new members visited were Congressman Snyder (AR), Congressman Sessions (TX), and Congressman Lampson (TX). Meanwhile, MG Fuhrman has met with Congressman Shuster, Congressman Oberstar, Congressman Boehlert (Chairman, Water Resources and Environment Subcommittee), and Congressman Borski (Ranking Democrat, Water Resources and Environment Subcommittee) of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. Legislative Initiatives Branch has also arranged visits for MG Fuhrman with Senator Chafee (Chairman), Senator Baucus, Senator Graham, Senator Warner (Chairman, Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee), and Senator Hutchinson of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee. Among MG Fuhrman's contacts with new Members have been Congresswoman Hooley (OR) and Congressman Davis (IL). These courtesy visits are exemplary of our senior leaders' commitment to preserving and enhancing our relationships with key customers and stakeholders while working toward our mutual goal to "Revolutionize Effectiveness."

POC: Beth Marty, CECW-AL, 202-761-4126

ASSISTANCE IN IMPLEMENTING THE FEDERAL MITIGATION BANKING GUIDANCE

In November 1995, the Corps of Engineers and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), in coordination with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Marine Fisheries Service, and the Natural Resources Conservation Service, published Federal Guidance on the establishment, use, and operation of mitigation banks. This guidance is a key provision of the Clinton Administration 1993 Wetland Plan to make wetlands programs more fair, flexible, and effective. Mitigation banks serve to consolidate compensatory mitigation requirements and increase the efficiency of limited agency resources in the review and compliance monitoring of mitigation projects. The importance of the guidance to this Administration was signified by the recent award of

the Vice-Presidential Hammer Award for Reinventing Government to the five Federal agencies responsible for development of the guidance. Accepting that award for the Department of the Army was Michael Davis, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for Policy and Legislation (Civil Works), at an EPA Awards Ceremony on June 10, 1997. The Corps Institute for Water Resources Policy and Special Studies Division (IWR-P) provided technical support for guidance development as part of its National Study of Wetland Mitigation Banking being conducted for Headquarters.

The guidance promotes the use of mitigation banking in both the private and public sector and endorses a watershed approach for integrating mitigation banking goals and objectives with local needs. While the guidance is specific on key policy issues at the national level, flexibility is maintained to allow field offices latitude in interpreting the guidance to address regional needs and interests.

More than 20 banks have been established since release of the Federal Guidance. Despite the increasing number of banks in some areas, many regions appear to be responding more slowly. To help field regulators and resource agencies implement banking, the Institute for Water Resources has conducted several training seminars and workshops during the past year. The five principal Federal agencies responsible for the guidance sponsored a series of three regional mitigation banking training seminars in September 1996 -- in Washington, D.C., Chicago, IL, and San Francisco, CA. IWR staff and consultants organized and presented the one-day seminars with the assistance of other Federal and state agency experts. Approximately 50 Federal, state, and local agency staff attended each seminar. At the Montana Symposium on Wetland Mitigation Banking in Helena, MT, held May 28-30, 1997, Bob Brumbaugh (IWR-P), along with Jack Chowning (HQUSACE Regulatory Branch), provided instruction on how to implement mitigation banking. The Federal Highway Administration funded the Corps/IWR participation in the Symposium organized by the Montana Wetland Trust and sponsored by the Montana Department of Environmental Quality. The Symposium was modeled after the earlier IWR Training Seminars. Following the Symposium, which was attended by approximately 60 representatives of Federal, state, and local agencies, as well as representatives from the private sector, Corps staff met with other agency representatives to discuss a

prospective interagency approach. Currently, the Federal Highway Administration is pursuing the funding of additional IWR training and assistance to state efforts to implement banking.

Information on wetland mitigation banking and the National Study can be found at the IWR Homepage: <http://www.wrc-ndc.usace.army.mil/iwr/current.htm#wmbbs>

POC: Bob Brumbaugh, CEWRC-IWR-P, 703-428-7069

UPDATE ON AUTHORIZING LEGISLATION OF INTEREST

The Legislative Initiatives Branch (CECW-AL) keeps its eye on major legislation, in addition to the water resources development acts, which may affect the way we, the Corps, do business. These include reauthorizations and certain appropriations. The current 105th Congress has several such items on its agenda -- rewrite and reauthorize the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA), which expired in 1992; amend the Water Pollution Control Act of 1972 (Clean Water Act); overhaul the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (Superfund) hazardous waste law; cleanup "brownfields" sites; and reauthorize the Intermodal Surface Transportation and Efficiency Act (ISTEA), the omnibus highway law.

Endangered Species

Action on reforming the Endangered Species Act is expected soon from both the House and Senate. Representative Billy Tauzin (R-LA) has drafted a bill which will likely have been introduced by the time you read this. Senator John Chafee (R-RI) has his Environment and Public Works Committee staff busy drafting a Senate version.

On a smaller scale, much controversy surrounded the attachment of an ESA rider to the Fiscal Year (FY) 1997 emergency supplemental appropriations bill. As enacted (Public Law 105-18), the ESA provision allows deferral of ESA consultation requirements if repairs are needed to

avert imminent threats to human lives or property that result from damage done in 1996 or 1997.

Clean Water Act

As you may recall, the House took the lead last Congress in amending the regulatory requirements of the Clean Water Act, but its bill did not make it through the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee. Although some House Republicans say they will let the Senate take the lead this time, House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee staff have made some attempts to urge government, industry, agriculture, and environmental group officials and other interested parties to compromise their policy differences. Reauthorization of ISTEA and Superfund rewrite make serious committee consideration of the Clean Water Act very unlikely before 1998.

Superfund and Brownfields

Similar to the Clean Water Act efforts, committee staff have been meeting with stakeholders on shaping Superfund rewrites. A key to the negotiations is how to resolve the issue of "retroactive liability," under which businesses can be held liable for cleaning up waste dumped legally before Superfund was enacted in 1980. The Administration has been brought into the negotiations. Congressional representatives have been pushing the enactment of legislation to spur the cleanup of contaminated urban industrial sites, or "brownfields." There is disagreement on the Hill on whether such legislation should be incorporated into a Superfund bill or handled separately. Brownfields are generally less polluted than sites that would be included in the Superfund program.

ISTEA

Pressure will be increasing for Congress to act on ISTEA reauthorization as the September 30, 1997, deadline approaches. A number of options, including a plan to only reauthorize the program for one year rather than the expected six, are being considered on the House side. Senate Environment and Public Works Committee Chairman John Chafee (R-RI) is hoping to come to some type of middle-ground starting point among supporters of

three Senate ISTEAs before moving forward with a markup.

POC: Bill Schmitz, CECW-AL, 202-761-4469